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SCIENCE & PROGRESS

Sir Lyon Playfair.

The venerable and distinguished British Association for the Advancement of Science met last year in Montreal. This year their meeting was in Aberdeen, Scotland. They held their sessions in the beautiful old university. This university includes King's college and Marischal college. King's college had its beginning nearly 400 years ago. To us in America British historic dates seem very ancient. The British association is jokingly called at home the British Ass. Its president this year is Sir Lyon Playfair, the distinguished scientific man. Besides his science he has been a member of parliament ever since his first election as a Liberal in 1858. In 1873 he was postmaster general under the Conservative government. Previous to 1874 the distinguished gentleman was plain Dr. Lyon Playfair. Then he was knighted and became Sir Lyon. It might, perhaps, have looked in better taste for him to have refused the title as being far less noble than the simple name of a scientific man, but that is one of the things which are not to be disputed about.



PRESIDENT OF THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR 1885.

Lyon Playfair was born at Meerut, India, in 1819. He was educated as a chemist, and was for some time manager of a calico printing works. From that he climbed to positions of more honor and less pay. This compensation was that he became a famous man. Whether that was sufficient depends on how one looks at it. He was professor of chemistry in the University of Edinburgh. The queen's sons, Albert and Alfred, attended his classes. He has served on numerous royal scientific commissions. Among them were those for the investigation of the cattle plague, the qualities of coal for the British navy, the fisheries and the causes of accidents in coal mines.

Sir Lyon Playfair has been three times married. His present wife is an American, a Boston woman.

Henri Milne Edwards.

This venerable man, one of the greatest of French naturalists, died recently at Paris.

French scientists men live long. M. Chevreul completed his 100th year in full possession of his faculties. Professor Edwards was born in Belgium, however, in 1800. His family went to Belgium from Jamaica. A strong, brave family was his. They not only lived long; but they were great in numbers. Henri Milne Edwards was the twenty-seventh child of the family. Through the influence of a brother he began scientific studies. He started in medicine and finished his course in that profession in 1831. But he was a born naturalist, and nothing could keep him from the bent of his genius. Like Cuvier, he devoted special attention to anatomy, in relation to the kinship of different animal forms. He was fond of tracing the resemblances that hint at a common origin of the great families in nature. But he went below the surface of things and showed that the resemblances that are trustworthy are not external ones, but likeness of anatomical structure. In this light we may realize a kinship between man and frogs.



PROFESSOR EDWARDS.

Mr. Edwards' classification by anatomical structure became the accepted one. All his life he was a teacher. From one institution to another he came in 1849 to become of the Faculty of Sciences of Paris. He held this place up to the day of his death. He was an indefatigable worker, and how he found time even in his long life for so much practical and original investigation and study of his classes is a marvel. He found some time, however, and contributed to science some splendid results of labor. He classified the marine creatures of the French coast first, then later those of the shores of Algeria. He was elected a member of the Academy of Sciences when the death of Cuvier made a vacant place. He investigated in the English channel and at Nice, and brought out much valuable information on embryology and comparative anatomy. In the course of his studies he actually went down in person in a diving apparatus to make deep sea captures of Scyia. The result of this deep sea fishing was his studies on the mollusks.

In the department of pure natural history he is considered to have done the best work of his time. He was a patriot as well and gave admirable service to his country, both in war and pestilence.

How Iron Bridges.
(By Baker, C. E.)

Hundreds of existing railway bridges which carry twenty trains a day with perfect safety would break down quickly under twenty trains per hour. This fact was forced on my attention nearly twenty years ago by the fracture of a number of iron girders of ordinary strength under a five-minute train service. Similarly, when in New York last year, I noticed, in the case of some hundreds of girders on the elevated railway, that the alternate thrust and pull on the central diagonals from trains passing every two or three minutes had developed weaknesses which necessitated the bars being replaced by stronger ones after a very

short service. Somewhat the same thing had to be done recently with a bridge over the Trent, but the train service being small, the life of the bars was measured by years instead of months. If ships were always among great waves, the number going to the bottom would be largely increased.

It appears natural enough to every one that a piece even of the toughest wire should be quickly broken if bent backward and forward to a sharp angle; but, perhaps, only locomotive and marine engineers do it appear equally natural that the same result would follow in time if the bending were so small as to be quite imperceptible to the eye. A locomotive crane axle lends but 1/34 of an inch, and a straight driving axle the still smaller amount of 1/64 of an inch under the heaviest bending stresses to which they are subject, and yet their life is limited. During the year 1883 one iron axle in fifty broke in running, and one in fifteen was renewed in consequence of defects. Taking iron and steel axles together, the number then in use on the railways of the United Kingdom was 14,818, and of these 911 required renewal during the year. Similarly during the past three years no less than 228,000 steamers were disabled by broken shafts, the average safe life of which is said to be about three or four years. In other words, experience has proved that a very moderate stress alternating from tension to compression, if repeated about 100,000,000 times, will cause fracture as surely as a sharp bending to an angle repeated perhaps only ten times.

Science and the Weather.

The day before the recent terrible storm on the Atlantic coast signals were up at the government stations from morning till night. Vessels were warned not to put out to sea that day, but to hug the harbors. The warning was obeyed, and the ships stayed at home. The storm came to time duly, and was a howling tornado. Telegraph wires were blown down in the eastern states. In several places ferry boats could not make their usual trips. At Coney Island great damage was done. Pavilions were blown away utterly. At New York not an inland steamer could come in past Sandy Hook. Several waited outside until the blow was over. It was one of the severest storms known for years. Yet such were the precautions taken, in consequence of the signal service warnings, that very little damage was done to vessels. One schooner, already out at sea, was wrecked. Five years ago such a storm would have been widely disastrous.

Facts of Interest.

If you want to get that cat fish. America is the paradise of mechanics, an English civil engineer says.

Another tremendous natural gas well has been struck in Pennsylvania. In many parts of that state natural gas is used instead of coal, both as a fuel and fuel.

If you want to see whether a pond or a stream is inhabited by fish, climb a tree and look down from a height. The bottom can then be plainly seen. A telegraph line man, who recently ran a wire along a northern New Jersey road, says that he saw hundreds of pickered, bass and trout almost every day, and during his leisure hours he devoted himself to fishing, with great success. He picked out the good places from the cross arms of the telegraph poles.

Cocaine cellulose is a new substance, and if it possesses the quality claimed for it, England may go back to her wooden walls with safety and beat up her self-destructive runs for old iron. The patented claim that a ship cannot be sunk by shot or shell if only she has taken the precaution of coming into the fight with this peculiar tissue as a great coat. When a shot, no matter what its dimensions, strikes the side of a frigate the carpenter and his mates need not jump to cram in the old-time plugs, for the cellulose immediately closes, and a drop of water will not enter.

The Fashions

The Teeth.

The other day at a dinner party a pretty young lady had a soft cream-colored dress on. It was cut square in the bodice, and her neck was like a lily for whiteness. So was her face, except her cheeks, which were a pleasant rose tint. Perhaps she had helped their paleness, but that is neither here nor there. She was a bright, lively girl, and quite attractive in a general way.

But her teeth! Well, they looked like a tobacco chewer's, that's the long and short of it. They had an appearance as though they had never been brushed. By contrast with her white dress and the rose and lily complexion they became so repulsive as to be hideous. When the girl smiled, which she did very often, it made a sensitive person shudder.

It was a disgrace and a shame. Water and tooth brushes are cheap. So is tooth powder. Fancy a girl with diamond earrings whose teeth looked like decay and death.

No diamonds are so becoming to beauty as a set of clean, sound, white teeth. There is a sparkle to them, a flash between real lips, that no artificial can give.

Take care of your teeth if you wish to be handsome. Brush them carefully every night, the last thing before you go to bed, it won't take over five minutes. Don't have particles of food to decay around them and corrode them. There is a harmless and useful tooth powder to be had of every druggist, which will be good to use two or three times a week. Keep your mouth after every meal, to keep bits of food from clinging around them. Have them overhauled by a good dentist once a year, have the tartar scraped off them, and the decayed ones filled with gold.

Hang on to your own natural teeth. False ones look like dead men's bones. They are better than none, but the best ones of all are those that are not put on.

That is all there is to the care of the teeth for grown persons. It is not hard, it is not tedious, and it is not expensive. If it were a child's teeth and if they are growing crooked or crooked have the family one examined or straightened. Make the young on a brush their own teeth from the time their permanent ones come in. Then they will never look like the girl at the dinner party.

Americans have better looking teeth than the people of Europe. They take better care of them. But there is still room for much improvement in this respect.

Pretty Queen Margaret's Fan.

A fan for Queen Margaret of Italy is now being executed in the studio of E. Volpi, a Florentine artist. It is painted on glove kid, and is a fantastic scene. The queen is seen in the ethereal garden of the Graces sitting majestically on a throne, surrounded by a troop of the Virtues, she herself being their center point. On her right stand four equally charming and yet earnest female figures, they symbolize Love, Hope, Faith and Religion. In their company we see the figure of Time in a meditative attitude, as described by Dante; she is scattering flowers, which are brought to her by a boy crowned with a garland. To the left on a Science seated as if reflecting on things around, the three Graces with their arms slung to

gether; Chastity and Conjugal Fidelity, the latter holding a turtle dove in her hands. The patron saint of Italy is rising above the clouds bearing a crown in the right hand, when she is about to place on her majesty's head.

New Shapes in Sealskins.

Sealskin cloaks are now becoming common enough for some novelties in this material to be ventured on. One that has appeared this fall is a half close-fitting sealskin jacket. It is the shape of the jackets heretofore given in this column—tight behind and half loose in front, longer before than behind. The sleeves are somewhat loose and open, and both they and the whole garment are bordered with a deep edging of some other fur, such as lynx, otter or black fox. The fur extends up the front. The garment is called a sealskin visette, and will be fashionable for young ladies. A fur hood matches it, but no woman who cares to keep her hair from falling out will sweater her head with a fur covering.

A second new shape for a sealskin cloak is a dolman which is short behind and long in front. At the back it reaches about a foot below the waist. In front the long skirt extends below the knees, half way to the ankles.

Men's Red Umbrellas.

It almost seems as if gentlemen too were desirous to have a share in the rich and manifold colors of the day. Red cravats were the first attempt in this direction, and although they encountered strenuous opposition, gentlemen's red umbrellas have appeared and seem to meet with less disapproval. Who knows what astonishing changes in the way of gentlemen's dress are before us, and whether red cravats and umbrellas may not prove the forerunners of red coats. We have certainly heard a fantastical idea of such things, though there does not seem much prospect of it being realized.

House Shoes.

In place of slippers, which afford but little support to the foot, demi shoes are again much worn with negligé toilets. Elegance of shape and perfection of make have been attained by red morocco demi shoes, with gilt high heels, the office of the latter being obtained by a thin metal covering, in place of ordinary gliding. The front is ornamented with a small bow, and cut low enough to allow full room for the display of fasts in the choice of stockings.

Some More Wraps.

It is hard to get to the end of the cloaks, jackets and dolmans, there are so many kinds of them. The leading shapes are the same as those we have given, but the variety of material demands some more attention. The fashion has now settled down into the two or three styles that will be most popular till the warm weather. Of these the feather-trimmed dolman seems to have gone up head.



MANTE WITH FEATHER TRIMMING—FRONT.

This clinging is full and bushy, like fur trimming. It comes in colors to suit all costumes, and is from \$1.50 to \$2 per yard. The cloth was to match tailor costumes will be the rage. With the heavy cloth skirt there will be quite sufficient warmth in it.

The mantle in the illustration is of brown cloth. The feather trimming is brown of a darker shade. The sprays of fern embroidery are done in stem and knotted stitch, with shaded brown silk. The mantle is waisted, if desired, for warmth, and over the foundation lining is another of golden brown satin.



BACK OF MANTE.

The garment is thirty-three inches long in front. Bind the neck with a standing collar. The fronts are fastened with a concealed button-hole fly and buttons, and a large bronze clasp is placed at the throat. An inside belt of elastic braid an inch wide is sewed inside the back at the waist line and hooked together in front.

Ladies' Vests.

The greatest luxury will be indulged in as regards ladies' waists during the ensuing winter; their material and cut must, of course, correspond with the occasion. For evening wear nothing will be too costly. We shall see waistcoats made of the richest satin, with velvet flowers, or gold and silver embroidery, reminding one of those worn at the court of Louis XV; waistcoats of every shade and color, from the purest white to the deepest black; cut out and high up to the neck, round, or coming to a point at the bottom. In short, full room is left for the display of individual taste.

FASHIONABLES.

A guimpe is a chemise. White bonnets of rough plush are to be worn for dress occasions.

Flush trimmings and plush striped dress goods are fashionable again.

A pretty caprice in imported dresses is that of putting a fold of ribbon, an inch wide folded doubly, inside the collar and wrists of dresses. Poppy red is most favored for these folds, and a very small bow is placed on one side.

In a San Francisco fair a prize was voted to the best dressed woman present. A lady from the east won it. She was dressed in black silk, beaded in front, with a basque covered entirely over with jet beads. Her hat was white, with a waving ostrich plume.

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